

Mr. Speaker, Congress can no longer ignore the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. This week we will have an opportunity to better secure our Nation by beginning the process of approving these recommendations.

□ 1215

#### REMEMBERING PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, the last 2 weeks have been a time of sorrow for me, and a time of pride also. I was awakened at 2:00 in the morning to learn that my good friend, President Ford, had passed away. And the succeeding whirlwind of funerals, receptions, and events dealing with his death have reminded us all how much he gave our country and how much he did for our country.

I am proud to call Mr. Ford a friend. I am proud of what he did for our country. I am proud that he so ably reflected the values and virtues of west Michigan, my part of the country.

We pray that You will bless Betty and his family and give them comfort and give them strength.

I will shortly be presenting a resolution honoring President Ford, and I hope that Members will find their way to the floor to speak on this special resolution, or speak later this evening. I encourage them to join me in honoring this great American and wonderful President.

#### SUPPORT H.R. 1

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, we must begin to think differently in America and join hands across the aisle. Our Nation must become secure now, not next week; and that is why I rise in support of H.R. 1.

As other Members have, I ask the current administration to present this Congress with a comprehensive plan for Iraq, a plan that makes sense, a plan based on the realities on the ground in Iraq and in the region, for all of us have the same goal: to build a better and more secure Nation.

By working together, we will accomplish our shared mission, first, by implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission; secondly, by securing our borders; and, finally, by protecting our Nation from threats from nuclear warfare.

Please join me in supporting H.R. 1 as we begin to work together to build a better Nation and a more secure Nation for everyone.

#### WAR ON TERROR

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I do want to speak for just a moment about the war on terror and our efforts in Iraq. It is clear that we have come to a very important time in this effort. The President is going to speak about his strategy tomorrow night.

You know, I have been asked many times over the last few weeks, and certainly on Sunday when I was at Fort Campbell, if I would support a surge in the troops. I think that we have to remember that it is important that we listen to the men and women and the commanders in the field as we have this discussion.

We have to look at the situation: what does it take to defuse it, to stand up the Iraqis and make it easier to relinquish control to the Iraqis for their country.

It is exactly this sort of opportunity and these situations that really animate the work and the leadership of Lieutenant General David Petraeus, the American commander who has been there for a year with the 101st, who was back for a year training the Iraqi troops in Baghdad, and now will return again. He has been called the military's warrior scholar and has drawn deeply on his dual background to create a leadership style that is respectful of military tradition and is innovative. We support General Petraeus.

We look forward to his work there and his leadership style as we work to continue to defeat the terrorists and win the war on terror.

#### TO QUOTE THE KING

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, January 8, was the 72nd anniversary of the birth of the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley. Elvis was a Memphian, a U.S. Army veteran, and an ambassador of goodwill throughout the world through his music and movies.

I am here to tell you that Elvis is still alive today in spirit and is as relevant as ever. To quote The King as we proceed through the 100 hours, "It's Now Or Never" that we make the changes that America needs. When this Democratic majority finishes with the status quo, it will be "All Shook Up" because we will do the people's will so we will not be "Return(ed) to Sender." And we won't be cruel to those being paid the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, by the way, I have noticed in my office, I think we need a surge protector. Can you get one up there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### CONGRATULATING ILLINOIS ON DIVERSITY

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I attended the inauguration ceremonies for the constitutional offices of the State of Illinois. I want to congratulate the people of Illinois for the diversity in its selection of individuals to run their State.

Governor Rod Blagojevich was re-elected; Lieutenant Governor Patrick Quinn, Irish American; Attorney General Lisa Madigan, a young Irish American; Secretary of State Jesse White, African American; Comptroller Dan Hynes is Irish American; and State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis, a Greek American who is 30 years old and is going to do an outstanding job.

I simply congratulate the people of the great State of Illinois on its selection of constitutional officers to run its State.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN of Virginia). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 15) mourning the passing of President Gerald Rudolph Ford and celebrating his leadership and service to the people of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 15

Whereas all American Presidents affect the history of the United States, but President Gerald Rudolph Ford leaves a legacy of leadership and service that will endure for years to come;

Whereas millions of men and women across America mourn the death of the 38th President of the United States;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford is the only person from the State of Michigan to have served as President of the United States;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford graduated from the University of Michigan with academic and athletic excellence;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford attended Yale University Law School and graduated in the top 25 percent of his class while also working as a football coach;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford joined the United States Navy Reserves in 1942 and served valiantly on the U.S.S. Monterrey in the Philippines during World War II;

Whereas the U.S.S. Monterrey earned 10 battle stars, awarded for participation in battle while Gerald R. Ford served on the ship;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford was released to inactive duty in 1946 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander;

Whereas in 1948, Gerald R. Ford was elected to the House of Representatives, where he served with integrity for 25 years;